AUTHORITY

Intro: The dictionary defines authority as: “the power or right to give commands, enforce obedience, take action, or make final decisions; jurisdiction.” There is authority in just about any aspect of life, we simply can not get away from it.

1. The Bible speaks of several different types of authority.
   a. Governmental authority; Rom. 13:
   b. Authority in the home; Eph. 6: Col. 3:18-21 “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. 20 Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. 21 Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.”
   c. Apostolic authority; 2 Cor. 10:8 “For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed:”
   d. Elders authority; Heb. 13:7,17 “Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. 17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.” 1 Pet. 5:1-4 “The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”

2. In this lesson I want to talk about our supreme authority.

I. EVOLUTION OR CREATION.
   A. If man is an accident of nature, that we evolved, then there is no supreme authority.
      1. If this were true then all authority in any aspect of life would be dissolved.
         a. There would be no authority.
         b. Whatever would be best for me is what I should pursue, and I should pursue it any way I can.
      2. This idea is false, embracing many false conclusions and logical contradictions.
   B. If we were created by a supreme being, God, as we are told in Gen. 1: then that supreme being, God, has supreme authority over us, the created.
      1. Jer. 18:1-6 “The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, 2 Arise, and go down to the potter’s house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words. 3 Then I went down to the potter’s house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. 4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it. 5 Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 6 O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the Lord. Behold, as the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel.”
      2. Rom. 9:20-21 “Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? 21 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?”
3. The authority that God has by right of creation, he gave to his Son Jesus Christ.

II. CHRIST HAS ALL AUTHORITY.
A. Mat. 7:28-29 “And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: 29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”
B. Mat. 17:1-5 “And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, 2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. 3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. 4 Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. 5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.”
C. Acts 3:22-23; “For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. 23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.” Deu. 18:18-19 “I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. 19 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.”
D. Eph. 1:22-23 “And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”
E. Col. 1:18 “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”
1. He is the head, this is the authority.
2. Beginning indicates that which is of worth, the origin or active cause.
3. Firstborn from the dead.
F. Mat. 28:18 “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”
G. Heb. 1:1-2 “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;”

III. CHRIST ALL AUTHORITY IS IN HIS WORD.
A. Example: Tell Andrew or Daniel not to do something.
1. While I am there I can enforce what I say.
2. But what about when I am not around.
B. John 12:48-50 “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. 49 For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. 50 And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.”
C. We can not go by our own feelings, opinions, beliefs, preachers, parents, popes, creeds, disciplines, etc.
IV. THAT ALL AUTHORITATIVE WORD WAS GIVEN TO HIS APOSTLES BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

A. John 17:8, 14, 18 “For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. 14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.”

B. They were directed by the Holy Spirit.
   1. John 14:25-26 “These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. 26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”
   2. John 16:12-13 “I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”

C. Rev. 20:12 “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”
   1. The word of Christ is recorded in the books.
   2. The Bible will judge us in the last day.

Conclusion: Does your life measure up to the standard of God’s Word as recorded in the Bible? Have you done what the Bible commands? If not, obey the commands of Christ today.